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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Children's and Young Adult Librarian Angela Reynolds recently taught a four-part training session on early childhood literacy for child care providers. The workshops were offered at the Nova Scotia Community College's Kingstec Campus, and approximately 25 participants from a variety of child care backgrounds were involved in this "Early Words: language & literacy professional development program".

On May 1, AVRL hosted an early childhood literacy workshop attended by library staff and interested child care people. "The Brain, Early Literacy, and Your Library" was an all-day training session on the science of early childhood brain development, early literacy research, and how to apply this research in story times and in the library. The guest presenter was Renea Arnold, Early Childhood Resources Coordinator, Multnomah County Public Library, Portland, OR (USA). Renea has been involved with the PLA/ALSC "Every Child Ready to Read' Project for several years. Multnomah County Library was one of the original demonstration sites for this project. This was made possible by IWK "Read To Me" funding.

As part of the Adopt-a-Library Literacy Program, note cards have been produced and are being sold to support the program. A local artist created a painting that depicts Angie McWaid, the Community Policing Officer who initiated the project in our area, reading to local children on the beautiful grounds of the Agricultural Research Station. The artwork was reproduced in a note card form and a launch of the fund-raising project was held at the Kentville Library on April 5.

AVRL is pleased to have Upper Clements Park as a partner again this year for Summer Reading Program (SRP) activities. Fast Passes will be given out to those who complete the reading program and the library has been invited as special guests to the park during the last week of August. AVRL will be offering its first ever Teen SRP this year and, as a special incentive, a local music store has donated an electric guitar ($250 value!). A book sale in February raised more than $900 for the 2006 SRP.

A Teen Open House was held at the Port Williams library in March to promote recent changes in the housing and content of the teen collection. Shelving was re-arranged to provide easier and more visible access to the material, and the local village Library Board approved funds for the purchase of additional graphic novels. The Annapolis Animanga Club hosted an Anime Night, snacks were available, and the new graphic novels were devoured.

AVRL received $2,500 in funding from a "Gift of Words", a grant presented by Starbucks and facilitated by ABC-Canada Literacy Foundation. An 8 week Family Reading Circle was developed at Bridgetown Library to involve reading, math and word games, craft activities, puppet shows, and music. See **http://www.abc-canada.org/gow**.

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Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

"Digitizing Images for your Museum" Workshop

On April 21, 2006 Reference Librarian Donald Ward attended a day long workshop "Digitizing Images for your Museum" presented by the Federation of NS Heritage in partnership with Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN). The workshop was held at the Whitney Pier Museum, in Sydney and the presenter was Diane Bowden (Systems Analyst, CHIN). CBRL staff want to be aware of the proper procedures and current practices in the area of digitization before embarking on any projects of this nature in the future. The workshop addressed such questions as "Why digitize? What does digitizing involve? What are the costs? The workshop also held discussions on how to determine digitizing options and the different uses of images and in addition, how to assess the implications for future cataloguing.

Donald Ward was one of a number of judges at the Historica Fair " Make History Come Alive", sponsored by the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board and held at Cape Breton University in May. More than one hundred exhibits were presented by students in grades 4 to 12. Each judge was given a maximum of eight exhibits to evaluate on the basis of presentation, creativity, originality and knowledge of the subject matter. Nineteen notable projects were placed on display in the McConnell Library on May 23.

Library Fundraiser

The CBRL held a very successful fundraiser called the Fish Tales Dinner Theater/ Art Auction, on May 12. The engineers behind the 'Fish Tales' fundraiser were Faye MacDougall (Regional Librarian) and Rosalie Gillis (Co-ordinator, Community Support). However the imagination and talent that were tapped for this event went far beyond the library. For example, thirty local artists created unique fish art from simple pine templates (approx. two feet long) that were handed out to be adorned. A talented cast of actors, under the direction of Ken Chisholm, entertained the audience and showcased the 'fish art'. Paul MacDougall adapted one of his and Ken Chisholm's earlier plays into a dinner theater/ auction. Members of St. Theresa's Parish Hall, in Sydney, prepared the turkey dinner. CBRL staff decorated the hall and the list of contributors is too numerous to continue! Many people deserve thanks, the event took a lot of effort and in the end it was a great success!

CBRL On-line Newsletter

The CBRL recently posted the first edition of our online newsletter. Karen MacNeil (Librarian and Branch Supervisor Victoria County) was the editor and Shelley Brown, Faye MacDougall, Karen MacNeil and Leona Stockley contributed articles to this first edition. The Cape Breton Regional Library Newsletter can be accessed from the homepage **www.cbrl.ca**.

Hackmatack Author Visit

The CBRL thoroughly enjoyed hosting children's author, Keltie Thomas, whose book *The Kids Guide to Money Cent$* was short-listed for the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Awards. Keltie was in our region on April 26 and 27 to visit children from the Centre Scolaire Etoile de l'Acadie (Sydney) and St. Anne's (Glace Bay) - two local schools who participated in Hackmatack this year. Keltie gave a wonderful PowerPoint presentation on her nominated book. The children were excited to meet an author that they had read and filled her visit with great comments and questions. For everyone involved in this visit it was an enjoyable experience!

Good luck to all of the authors nominated and a sincere thank-you to the Canada Council for the Arts for making Keltie's visit to our region possible.

From left to right, Fish Tales cast: MauraLea Morykot, Danielle MacKinnon, Josie Sobel and Frank MacKenzie.

Colchester-East Hants Public Library (CEHPL)

NSPL Round Table Discussions

As part of its strategic planning, the Nova Scotia Provincial Library consulted library boards and members of the public around the province; CEHPL's meetings took place May 8 in Truro and the session with the public was one of the few in which children and teens participated. The sessions were lively and informative with praise for our present services and valuable information on expectations for the future.

Jennifer Evans, director of the Provincial Library (left), with Amarinda and Fayth, two members of the Truro library's teen group, BLAST, at a roundtable discussion on the future of public libraries.

Round Table Discussion on Teens

On March 20 staff welcomed colleagues from Cumberland Regional Library and Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library for a discussion on teens in libraries. Sharing information on programs and strategies for engaging teens was valuable to all.

Truro Tulip Festival, Library Book Sale, and BLAST Events for Children

The ninth annual Tulip Festival took place over the Victoria Day Weekend and the library lawn was front and centre for many of the family oriented activities. The library's third annual book sale grossed $247.93 and once again local sea cadets helped set up; the Investor's Group gave a gift of $400. Beaux Bijoux joined CEHPL to sell their handmade jewellery (all proceeds going to the IWK Children's Hospital). Twenty-four volunteers from the Truro library's teen group, BLAST, provided fun-filled activities for children – more than 250 youngsters enjoy crafts, face painting, lollipop surprise, puppet shows and a fish pond.

Truro Sea Cadets select books after helping to set up tables and stock for the library book sale at the Truro Tulip Festival.

Truro Tulip Festival crowds on the library lawn.

Bowl for Kids
BLAST's twelve-member bowling team for Big Brothers–Big Sisters raised an impressive $507, won some prizes, and had fun at the annual Bowl for Kids event on April 1, 2006. [Photo]

Bowl for Kids -- BLAST's twelve-member bowling team for Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Colchester.

Open Mic at the Library
The stars were out at BLAST in the Truro Branch. Teens in the group decided to try an open mic night with a variety of acts to showcase

their talents. Singing in Japanese and English, dancing, and comedy skits were all part of the entertainment. Justin and Jordon improvised an act on the theme for the forthcoming summer reading program, *Quest for Heroes*. Much applause, encouragement, and laughter made for a vibrant evening in the community room.

Space crisis at the Truro Branch

The Truro Art Society which had a 37-year partnership with CEHPL has moved its monthly exhibits to a larger space in the community college library. The cause was the Increasing demand for the Truro library community room, including more programs for children and teens. The partnership ended on a positive note with the society donating a painting to the library as a token of appreciation for the many years of free exhibit space. Both partners expressed the hope that some day the partnership can be renewed in a new public library facility. The painting, *I AM*, by Deanna Boucher now hangs in the main reading room.

***I AM* by Deanna Boucher. Painting donated by the Truro Art Society in appreciation for 37 years of free exhibit space at the library.**

Technology Training

Bill Morgan has noted that Truro's Gates computer lab "is rarely quiet lately!" During March and April, local volunteers with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency trained in the lab and then, using both the community room and lab, held six clinics to assist low income residents and senior citizens to complete their income tax returns. From February until the end of June, a trainer with the IT Works for Women program has been using the lab weekly. Success College of Applied Arts and Technology, Royal LePage, and Visual Arts Nova Scotia have all booked time for the Gates Learning Centre. The lab's public hours – Tuesday to Friday in the afternoon, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon (mid September to mid May) – are very popular.

Mount Uniacke

Branch manager, Jean Murphy, reported that "an outreach worker from the Memory Lane Family Resource Center in Lower Sackville visited the library's Baby Time program on April 2. She came to talk about baby nutrition and development. There were 17 mothers and babies present as well as one grandmother. The outreach worker was very impressed with the group and how well they supported each other and the fact that this program gave them the opportunity to get together to meet others in their situation and for the babies to play together."

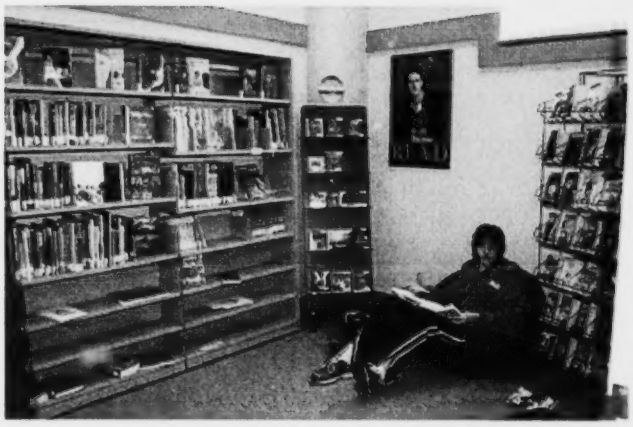
Cumberland Regional Library

Several author readings were held this spring at the Cumberland Regional Library. Amherst and Pugwash offered readings with Newfoundland author Janet McNaughton who writes primarily for teens. Elizabeth MacLeod gave three readings on April 26 for the Hackmatack author tour, and Tom Gallant read in Pugwash on April 27 as part of the Atlantic Book Festival Tour. His book *Hard Chance: Sailing Into the Heart of Love* recently won the Margaret & John Savage First Book Award.

Linda Little gave a reading at the Pugwash Library promoting her new book Scotch River on May 31 and afterwards she spent time autographing copies of her book.

The third annual Spread the Word Writers' Cafe was held on May 13 at the Wandlyn Inn in Amherst. The featured authors were Donna Morrissey, Carol Bruneau, Joan Baxter, and Lesley Crewe. The library worked with the Cumberland Adult Network for Upgrading (CANU) and community volunteers to organize this event and $2,000 was raised for adult literacy classes.

In May the decorating bug bit Amherst library staff and the adult section was reorganized to create more reading nooks and quiet study zones. A new book display rack was purchased.



Beanbag chairs were purchased for the Amherst library Teen Zone.

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)

Provincial Librarian Jennifer Evans, along with Michael Colborne and Halifax Consultant Tony Mancini, (a native of St. Peter's) travelled to Port Hawkesbury in early May for ECRL's version of the Public Library Consultation. An overview of the current provincial system was given to the approximately 20 individuals attending, representing communities, organizations and individual library users. Tony Mancini led the group discussion. The public certainly welcomed this opportunity to share their views with Provincial and regional library staff. Every participant received a door prize consisting of either a local bookstore certificate or a Nova Scotia-themed Audio/Music CD.

Consultant Tony Mancini walks the audience through some challenging questions on the future of libraries at the public consultation held in Port Hawkesbury on May 10 at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre.

Michael Colborne rapidly filled pages of flip chart paper with ideas generated during the Port Hawkesbury session.

Outreach staff travelled to Bayview Education Centre in Port Hood recently to participate in a Health and Wellness Fair for students in grades 4 - 8. The Library was one of several exhibitors who welcomed the students to an afternoon of interactive displays and information dissemination. ECRL library staff also visit the school on a monthly basis as part of its School Services program, providing the opportunity for the students to borrow materials from the ECRL travelling collection.

Outreach staff at Bayview Education Centre in Port Hood recently participated in a Health and Wellness Fair for students in grades 4 - 8.

Library staff attended the second annual garden show, "Friendship Flowers" on May 13 at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre. The show, a fundraiser sponsored by Leeside Transition House, included a Market Place, demos, workshops, guest speaker, children's activities and exhibitors. Visitors were also given a copy of "Get Connected @ your library®, the library's guide to using online services.

The Outreach Coordinator, Lesley Carruthers (left), displayed a wide variety of books and materials on gardening, plants, and building decks, and demonstrated the online catalogue to visitors to the booth.

Halifax Public Libraries (HPL)

Creative Students Shine at *Make Yourself Famous* Awards Night

Young artists and writers from Halifax's north end were in the spotlight on April 20 as the Halifax North Public Library held its annual *Make Yourself Famous: Art, Story, Poetry and Audiovisual Awards Ceremony*. The event, now in its 26th year, was an opportunity for north end Halifax elementary and junior high school students to showcase their artistic talents. Students submitted a piece of their best artwork or writing in the fall, and the winners received a certificate and a book during the awards night event. "The library is committed to promoting literacy and the arts, and we're very excited to offer this event as a way to celebrate the many creative and talented young people in this area," said Annette MacIntyre, Youth Librarian at the Halifax North branch.

Some of the winning students at Halifax North Library's Make Yourself Famous Awards.

Halifax Public Libraries' *Body & Soul* Series

Halifax Public Libraries kicked off spring with programs that are part of its new Body and Soul Fitness and Healthy Living Series. One of the highlights of the series was the *Inspiring Athletes – Panel of Marathoners*, which took place at the Keshen Goodman Public Library on May 18. Panelists included previous Blue Nose Marathon winners, Dave MacLennan and Harry Neynens, the Canadian Forces Female Athlete of the Year, Tammy Hiscock and university track and field medalist, Heather Goodfellow. These experienced runners talked about what inspires them to run, and how they prepare for a big race.

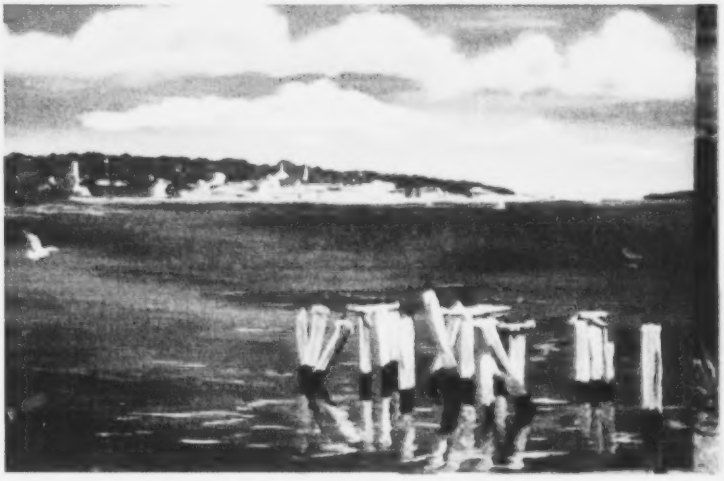
"The Library is responsible for contributing to the well-being of the community, and one of the ways it does this is by providing free access to information on health, fitness and sport," said Sarah Wenning, manager of the Keshen Goodman Public Library. "Whether you're a seasoned fitness pro, or just looking for some information to get you started, the Library has everything you need to lead a healthy and active lifestyle."

Along with several programs focused on running, the *Body & Soul Series* included programs on kayaking, care and prevention of sport injuries, nutrition, mountain climbing, working out on a budget, Nordic walking, Tai Chi, home fitness, becoming an outdoor woman and planning an active holiday.

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

Library Offers New Program for Artists

The New Glasgow Public Library has begun a new program aimed at introducing artists and their work to the public. Called the Pictou County Artist Showcase, PARL's inaugural event in March featured local artist, Paul MacKinnon. MacKinnon delivered a short talk outlining his career and vision as a graphic artist followed by a discussion and viewing of his glasswork, sandblasting, and watercolour creations. More than thirty people attended the program, showing their support for the artist. By providing a forum of this nature in New Glasgow, the library hopes that artists of all types, mediums, and levels of success will be able to display their work to new audiences and gain experience presenting in a community setting. The next showcase is scheduled for fall. This event was initiated as a class assignment by first year Business Administration students under the guidance of Marketing instructor Harold Lowe of the Nova Scotia Community College, Pictou Campus.



One of Paul MacKinnon's paintings shown at PARL's first Pictou County Artist Showcase evening.

In March the New Glasgow Library hosted Rene Robichaud, Laughing Leader of the Nova Scotia Chapter of The International Laughing Club. The night was a raging success as over 40 individuals crowded the program room to discover the benefits of "laughing yourself healthy." As a result of the night, a local chapter has since been formed.

Rene Robichaud leads the group through

one of the common laughing exercise moves, "The Archer."

South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)

Staff Recognition

South Shore Regional Library Board honoured staff on June 20 at Library Headquarters in Hebbville. Staff members Wanda Kushner (30 years), Sharon Stone and Winnifred McCarthy (25 years), Dave White (20 years), Shelley Roy (10 years), Robin Benjamin and Peggie Graham (5 years) were honoured for their years of service to the Library.

Special Services Coordinator Winnifred McCarthy volunteered at the 50+ Expo held in Halifax, June 9 - 10. Winnifred will retire at the end of July. Winnifred has been with the Library since 1981, and is responsible for the success of the Library's Home Library Service and the Seniors' Library Café in Lunenburg, Liverpool and Bridgewater Libraries. Winnifred plans to spend her days pursuing her varied interests, which include birding, travelling, belly dancing, tae kwan do and acting. Jeff Mercer, Branch and Special Services Librarian and Winnifred's Supervisor, joins staff in wishing Winnifred well. "Winnifred is passionate about her job and is tirelessly dedicated to providing top quality service to her patrons. She brings an energy to the office that keeps us laughing and upbeat."

Patrice d'Entremont, Library Assistant in charge of the Lunenburg Library, returned in June from a year in England and SSRL is looking forward to welcoming Patrice back. Her replacement, Nilanjana Das, has done a tremendous job filling in, and will be missed.

APLA Ideas Gallery

The Ideas Gallery, a new event at the Atlantic Provinces Library Association Conference, generated a great deal of positive feedback from APLA attendees. Approximately 40 people strolled through the gallery which showcased PR material from a variety of libraries in the Atlantic Provinces. South Shore Regional Library's Public Relations efforts won certificates in two categories - Library Advocacy and Fundraising. Other winners included New Brunswick Public Library Service, Nova Scotia Public Libraries, Dalhousie University

Libraries and Halifax Public Libraries. Certificates were presented during the Merit Awards Banquet.

7,500 Enjoy Programs

The number of programs and community visits rose dramatically from 165 in 2004/05 to 397 in 2005/06. More than 7,500 people participated in a variety of programs for children, adults and seniors. Programs included the Seniors' Library Cafés, Under the Story Tree, Crystal's Story and Craft Hour, author readings, Computer Tutors, and more. The increase in programming can be credited to the appointment of a full-time Programmer, Heather Stevens, for Library programs and activities.

Programmer Heather Stevens presents certificates and free movie passes to the winners of the recent Lord of the Rings Trivia Contest at the Bridgewater Library.

Chief Librarian Janet Clark brought her beloved childhood bear to the Teddy Bear's picnic at the Bridgewater Library during March Break. Her bear was the oldest in attendance! 283 people enjoyed 19 programs at South Shore Regional Library Branches during March Break.

The March Break hair braiding workshop at the Lunenburg Library was a success with the girls in attendance. Some came in pairs, some with Grandmas and some on their own, but all enjoyed the new skills they developed for plaiting their pigtails.

Margaret Atwood is Coming To Town

Margaret Atwood, the internationally renowned Booker Prize winning author of ***The Blind Assassin***, ***The Penelopiad*** and ***The Tent,*** will be at the Pearl Theatre in Lunenburg on July 3 for a reading and book signing. The reading is sponsored by the Canada Council for the Arts and hosted by the Friends of the South Shore Regional Library.

Friends of the Library Raise $$$

The library's Book Sale, organized and staffed by the Friends of the Library this year, was once again a tremendous success. Hundreds of boxes of books - including those that are no longer in demand, or which are worn out or damaged - were for sale on May 6 and 7 at the Michelin Social Club. $4,500 was raised and will be used to purchase new books for the Library.

Gift of Words Reading Circle

The South Shore Regional Library was awarded a $2,500 funding grant for a Gift of Words Reading Circle at the Bridgewater Library. The Reading Circle offers children up to age ten an opportunity to enjoy stories, crafts, songs, puppet shows, authors, etc. Gift of Words Reading Circles throughout the country are funded by Starbucks, which has made a commitment to fostering literacy in Canada. Starbucks believes that when a community equips children with tools for literacy, it provides them with the keys to opportunity, hope and discovery.

Summer Reading Program - UnderCover Reader

Young South Shore sleuths and secret agents (and those who wanna-be) are invited to become UnderCover Readers by reading in the library, reading at home, and reading on their summer travels. Beginning June 26, kids can sign up for the South Shore Regional Library's Summer Reading Program - UnderCover Reader - and read their way through fantastic missions and earn prizes. The theme **"UnderCover Reader"** invites readers to enter the mysterious and exciting world of espionage by reading about Travel, Spying/ Observing, Technology/Gadgets, Listening, Hidden Messages, Detection and Disguises. Reading logs to chart the expedition, bookmarks, colourful stickers and other give-aways will be provided to encourage a summer of exciting reading. Kids who complete the program will receive their own UnderCover Reader secret agent ID cards, plus their names will be entered in a draw for a spy kit at each Library Branch. Details will be available soon at **www.ssrlibrary.ca**. Kids who join Spy School are automatically entered in **UnderCover Reader**, the Library's Summer Reading Program. Spy School will be offered at Library Branches in Lunenburg, Bridgewater and Liverpool, and in rural communities such as Mahone Bay, Port Medway, Caledonia and New Ross. Spy School is made possible by the generous support of the Rotary Club of Bridgewater and District. Other "spy" related activities include spy movies at Lunenburg and Liverpool Branches.

Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL)

Sixth Adopt-a-Book brings needed new material to shelves

Nearly 800 books have already been adopted during Western Counties Regional Library's 2006 Adopt-a-Book campaign. The campaign has been buoyed by two major donations. Rodd Hotels and Resorts has adopted the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library in Yarmouth for Adopt-a-Book 2006 with its donation of $1,000. The Friends of the Shelburne Library group has adopted the McKay Memorial Library with a donation of $1,500. Staff are very excited this year to have received a major donation from the RBC Foundation. The funding arm of

the Royal Bank has donated $500 in support of the Clare branch library in Meteghan.

The campaign got off to a rollicking start with the Fools Day Trivia Challenge on April 4. Thirteen teams vied for the Trivia Challenge Trophy. Author and columnist John MacIntyre, famous for co-authoring "The Nova Scotia Book of Everything and Figuratively Speaking," was the library's special guest. The goal is to have 1,000 books adopted during the 10-week campaign. As well as the books available for adoption at library branches, this year the library has partnered with R.H. Davis Co. Ltd. in Yarmouth, allowing people to purchase books there for the Adopt-a-Book campaign. The library has also introduced an Adopt Express online book display for patrons who connect with their library through the Internet.

It's been a decade since the library introduced the Adopt-a-Book campaign. In the first five campaigns, more than 5,500 books worth around $120,000 were adopted. From its inception, Radio CJLS has been a media sponsor, providing more than $5,000 worth of air-time and radio ads for each campaign. This year the library produced three promotional ads. Library services coordinators Debbie Little, Joanne Head and Rick Beharriell were featured.

Western Counties Regional Library's deputy director, Joanne Head, works with the coordinator of library services, Debbie Little, to prepare books for each branch's display of books available for adoption during the campaign.

Food Banks Benefit from Forgiveness of Fines

Patrons of Western Counties Regional Library traded food in exchange for overdue fines during the month of March. The library instituted a region-wide fine-amnesty program tied to donations of non-perishable food items for area food banks. For every item of food donated to the library, up to $5 in overdue fines was forgiven. If a patron owed $30 in fines and brought in six food items, the account was wiped clean. Library branches throughout Yarmouth, Shelburne and Digby counties collected 155 boxes of food for local food banks. The program has been so well received that the library is considering making it an annual campaign. Demand for food bank services is heaviest through the winter months and food banks are often depleted by March. Says regional library director Trudy Amirault, the library does not want overdue fines to discourage library users from accessing library services. "We can give our patrons a break and at the same time help replenish area food banks' dwindling supplies," she said.

Authors Visit

Two authors nominated for the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Awards gave author readings at four library branches in the week leading up to the awards ceremony on April 29. Rochelle Strauss, author of *The Tree of Life*, captivated children in Yarmouth and Digby with stories about some of the species with whom we share the world. French Canadian author Andrée Poulin, nominated for *La disparition du bébé chocolat*, visited Pubnico and Clare. Their visit was funded by the Canada Council for the Arts.

WCRL partners with Addiction Services

Addiction Services has placed approximately 650 copies of gambling self-help materials and books worth approximately $10,000 in all 10 branches of Western Counties Regional Library. This donation was made possible by a grant from the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation. The placement of self-help materials was made in response to a recent Office of Health Promotion study that indicated the first place people look for help when faced with a gambling problem is to family and friends, or trusted advisors such as a family physician. Addictions Services staff hope to reach a broad audience through the library system and give them tools to help deal with problem gambling.

WCRL entertains election candidates

WCRL invited party leaders and local candidates to meet with the library's director and tour the regional headquarters during this year's provincial election campaign in the run up to the June 13 voting day. At issue was the provincial grant governing library funding. Despite million dollar top ups in the last two provincial budgets, core funding remains essentially unchanged in the 2006-2007 budget estimates, released just in advance of the election. Regional director Trudy Amirault told Liberal Leader Francis MacKenzie during his visit to the Yarmouth headquarters that this is a source of significant concern. It's impossible to plan, she said, if, from year to year, her board doesn't know how much money is available.

Liberal leader Francis MacKenzie discusses library issues with regional director Trudy Amirault during a visit to the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Library in Yarmouth.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY (SIM)

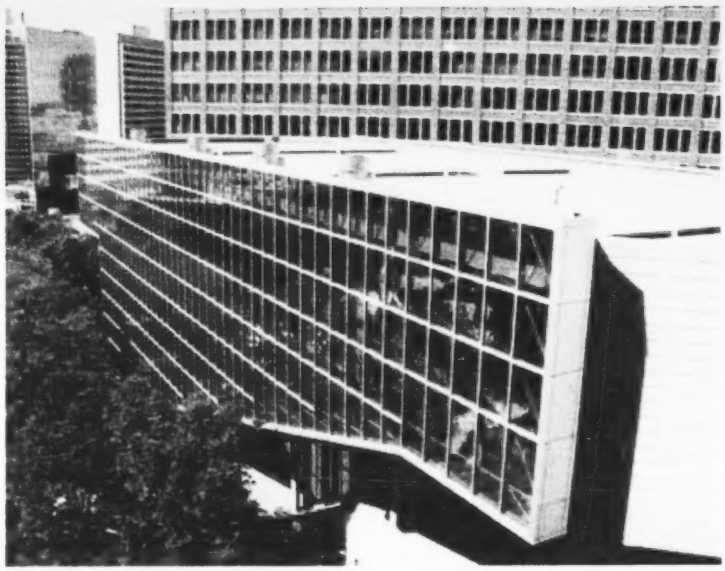
Three Weeks in the Life of Winnipeg Public Library

Monique Woroniak, School of Information Management, Dalhousie University gives the first of four Practicum reports (collected and submitted by JoAnn Watson, Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) Programme Coordinator, School of Information Management, Dalhousie University) below:

The Winnipeg Public Library (WPL) in November 2005 marked the reopening of its central branch (The Millennium Library) after two years of renovation. Since I am from Winnipeg, I looked forward to completing my Practicum requirement for Dalhousie's MLIS programme at the new Millennium Library, as well as at a small inner-city neighbourhood branch within the WPL system. At the time of my Practicum in 2006, I had never worked in a library before, and so my placement was designed to expose me to the full range of WPL's operations, at both the central and neighbourhood branch levels.

In just two weeks I experienced my first Reference shifts, assisted with the launch of Manitoba Book Week, sought out display materials at local galleries for National Aboriginal Day, evaluated websites and had the opportunity to informally "interview" numerous staff members. I even spent a brief time working at the Circulation counters, gaining insight about how management decisions of all kinds (everything from policy making to work counter design) affect frontline staff. The final week of my placement was spent at the West End Branch located in a neighbourhood with significant immigrant and Aboriginal populations. As many readers will know, the smaller staff size at neighbourhood branches means that everyone pitches in as needed! I learned that resourcefulness and the creation of relationships with residents are essential. West End's usage levels have risen significantly in recent years, a fact that can be attributed to the leadership its Branch Head has shown with respect to outreach efforts.

I sat in on a meeting of WPL's administrators, which I found useful for providing a framework for the operations I had been exposed to, and for learning about the external factors (e.g., budgets, politics, etc.) that must be considered when making plans for a library system. As I student who is interested in public sector management I found great value in the broad scope of my Practicum. At Dalhousie, the MLIS programme is situated within the Faculty of Management, and students are encouraged to think about how best to grow the leadership capacities of libraries and ourselves as future librarians. My Practicum even allowed me time to engage in discussions about WPL's role within the City of Winnipeg, and its relationship and obligations to the city's citizens.



View of Winnipeg's newly expanded Millennium Library.

Into the real world: A practicum student's experience at Halifax North Memorial Public Library

Alison Black, School of Information Management, Dalhousie University, wrote:

I was fortunate to be able to work in a library that continues to achieve its status as a community centre. Having just completed my first year of the Dalhousie MLIS program, I was excited to be able to perform my practicum placement at Halifax North Memorial Public Library. I have always been drawn to public librarianship in its goals to create inviting and vibrant public spaces, and Halifax North is a wonderful example of a true "neighbourhood" library branch. During my 100-hour work placement, I participated in many aspects of public library work, working some hectic shifts at the circulation and information desks, assisting with collection maintenance, helping with children and adult programming, offering reader's advisory services, and attending youth services meetings. I enjoyed getting to know the library patrons, many of them children and teens who joke around with the friendly library staff.

My practicum placement held many highlights, such as visiting a local children's bookstore to help choose prizes for the annual "Make Yourself Famous Awards". I was also able to attend a lively teen services meeting, during which youth library workers from each library branch met to play games (!), have brainstorming sessions, and discuss ways in which the library can be an exciting place for teenagers. I was able to participate in a reading by Stephen Kimber, whose latest work is set in Africville, and an afternoon of stories and music with Harvey Millar, a magnificent jazz guitarist. My favourite times spent at Halifax North occurred during the weekly Women's Group meetings, which have been held at the branch for over 25 years. The women of the community, some of whom have been part of the group for over 20 years, made me feel at home as we drank coffee, chatted, and learned from a variety of speakers about topics concerning women.

My practicum placement was a wonderful way to complete my first year of studies. As I worked at the busy information desk, or recommended new titles for the literacy, Black, or Native collections, I found that all I had learned throughout the year had prepared me for these sometimes frantic moments.

Medicine Hat College Library

Francine May, School of Information Management, Dalhousie University, wrote about her pre-MLIS programme work experience for her required Practicum report:

Currently, I am in my last year of the Master of Library and Information Studies programme at Dalhousie University. I made the decision to enrol in this programme as a result of my experiences working at the Medicine Hat College Library in southern Alberta. For me, this job was an outstanding experience not just because of the skills I learned, but because of the opportunity it provided me to observe a library director who had developed an excellent leadership style. Keith Walker, the library director, was friendly and approachable and, while making his own decisions, he always consulted with staff and let us feel we had been heard.

He allowed staff the flexibility to take on projects at their own initiative and, through formal and informal events such as regular staff meetings and monthly all-staff coffee breaks, he encouraged the staff to function as a cohesive and friendly whole. His strength as a leader came from respecting all staff members and striving to create an atmosphere where staff felt valued and needed. I found that reflecting on this experience of excellent leadership later helped me to gain a deeper understanding of the theories and concepts that were taught in the Organizational Management & Strategy class at Dalhousie. One of the things that made the job so enjoyable was the opportunity to learn new skills. My responsibilities included working at the information desk, teaching classes, supervising shelvers,

organising the redesign of the library's homepage and liaising with the computer services department and with the University of Lethbridge (with whom we shared a catalogue). This work experience convinced me to enrol in the MLIS programme and the range of skills and experiences it provided me has helped me to better understand and retain the subject matter I am learning in my classes.

Dalhousie Student Gets Practical!

Andrea Hyde is a Dalhousie University MLIS Candidate for 2007 who enjoys hiking, music, and, you guessed it: reading! She wrote:

Placed in the Sackville branch of the Halifax Public Libraries under the supervision of Youth Librarian Ray Fernandes for the Practicum component of the MLIS program, I experienced all aspects of librarianship, with a distinct emphasis on children and teen services. Chosen to lead the way in providing excellence in library service to teens for HPL, the Sackville Public Library exists as a safe place for youth to congregate, and as a place that allows young adults to foster their talents, to learn about the world around them and to learn about themselves. As a Practicum student, this specific teen service initiative afforded me the opportunity to fully experience a wide range of innovative programs that encourage respect, lifelong learning, and youth involvement in the community.

From my time with the Sackville Public Library staff, I learned the importance of a youth librarian as a workplace and community leader – being a person that youth in the community can relate to, and can aspire to be like. I also learned practical applications of many of the theoretical frameworks discussed in our SIM coursework, including human resource management, strategic planning for the future of the library, and the importance of organizing people, programs and services to create a supportive and encouraging library atmosphere.

A great compliment to the courses in the programme, the Practicum allowed me to make connections with librarians, library staff, and library clients in a very personal way. The holistic approach to practical learning that I experienced working with Halifax Public Libraries has created a valuable framework from which to begin my final year of the MLIS degree. The partnership between Halifax Public Libraries and Dalhousie's School of Information Management offered me a learning experience that has enhanced my professional knowledge, presented new and exciting ideas for library service, and established my future goal to work with and for youth in the public library system.

Seeing first-hand the difference that the library can make to the lives of community members has been a thrilling and deeply rewarding experience, one that truly demonstrates what it is to be a librarian.

NEWS FROM THE NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIBRARY & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (LIT)

An "Introduction to Archives" workshop was delivered to faculty and students of the Nova Scotia Community College's Library and Information Technology program on April 27 and 28. It was held at the Nova Scotia Community College's Institute of Technology campus and was co-sponsored by the Student Association. This was the first of six workshops leading to the Council of Nova Scotia Archive's "Archival Certificate of Completion." The workshop was facilitated by Karen White, Education, Outreach and Network Archivist for the Council.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

Staff Notes

Retirement well deserved for Frank Oram

On April 28, 2006, Frank Oram, Professional Services Librarian, Nova Scotia Provincial Library, retired after 33 years of service with the Nova Scotia government. Frank began his career as Health Sciences Librarian at the Victoria General Hospital and 7 years later joined the NSPL in 1980. Throughout his tenure at NSPL, Frank held the positions of Union Catalogue Librarian, Acting Coordinator of Reference Services and Professional Services Librarian. Although Frank has officially retired, he has many interests, including hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing, cross country skiing and camping. He is also active in many wildlife organizations. He has also been involved with the national army cadet organization, serving as an instructor, where he was awarded the Canadian Forces decoration. He was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2003 and also received his 25 year service pin in 2003 in recognition for his years at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. We wish him well in all his future endeavours!

Frank Oram receiving the Queens Golden Jubilee Medal from the Honourable Myra Freeman in 2003.

Teleconferences hosted by the Nova Scotia Provincial Library (NSPL)

The Provincial Library hosted a number of satellite teleconferences from the College of DuPage recently. On April 28, there was a roundtable discussion from the College of DuPage's Library Challenges and Opportunities series called "Google Book Search: Its Impact on Scholarship and Libraries." This program explained Google's vision of the future. This project has stirred up a some contentious issues so the goal of the discussion was to highlight the key issues in a constructive manner.

Another recent highlight was a satellite teleconference on "Confronting the Crisis in Library Education" on June 9. It was co-sponsored by the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and the Dalhousie University School of Information Management In the teleconference, ALA President Michael Gorman hosted a panel of library managers and educators. He expressed the view that the emphasis on information technology over library oriented education in library education programs was creating a crisis in preparing students to work in libraries. The panel spoke of the need to bring practitioners and educators together to discuss issues and development needs.

Following the broadcast, Fiona Black, Director of the Dalhousie University School of Information Management and Ryan Deschamps, a recent graduate of the School who is now e-Learning Services Manager at Halifax Public Libraries, responded to the ideas discussed in the teleconference. They led a discussion among local participants at the Provincial Library. In her comments, Professor Black stated that the library education situation is different in Canada and that she doesn't see a crisis here. She said that there are a lot of positive things happening in Canada. For more information on Professor Black's views see her paper, "Patterns, Perceptions and Predictions: Librarianship in the Early 21st Century" at http://mg.csufresno.edu/papers/BlackLibrarianship2006.pdf. She contributed this paper to Michael Gorman's Forum on Education at ALA Midwinter in January 2006.

A number of audio conferences from the Education Institute of The Partnership of the Provincial and Territorial Library Associations of Canada were attended by regional public library staff, in addition to staff from other local libraries. A highlight was the series on *Effective Board Governance* with Ken Haycock.

Nova Scotia Public Libraries Wordmark

In Nova Scotia there are nine library regions, each governed by an independent library board. Each region has its own logo, but there are occasions when a collective brand is more appropriate. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library, in consultation with the nine regional libraries and Communications Nova Scotia, commissioned graphic designer Cathy Little to design a wordmark. The new wordmark was approved in March 2006.

Nova Scotia
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The new wordmark (left) will be used on province-wide library promotional materials such as brochures, posters, annual reports, and trade show display materials.

HOT TIPS AND UPDATES

APLA 2006

Presented here is a session report from the Atlantic Provinces Library Association's (APLA) 2006 annual conference, held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, May 25-28. For more information on the sessions, see **http://www.lib.unb.ca/APLA**. Lesley Carruthers (Eastern Counties Regional Library) wrote the following:

Madeleine Lefebvre, St. Mary's University, presented "Growing a Library: Cultivating Staff to Ensure They Bloom" which focused on the need to build a sense of community within the workplace. Using examples and scenarios, Ms. Lefebvre provided useful tips for those in supervisory roles. The number one problem in the workplace is poor communication. Thank the staff, take the time to communicate, and take the time to think before you act. If there is a problem, let staff know that you recognize it. Show confidence in people and recognize the skills and strengths that they bring to the table. Delegate as much as possible but be aware of what is taking place. Listening is really important; be honest about your shortcomings, Ms. Lefebvre said. Communication is a 2-way street, so do it face to face and listen to what is and isn't said. Front-line people have to be told what is going on as they are the "face" of the library. Seek their input. Many libraries have a library support staff divide with senior library assistants being caught in the middle - find ways of diminishing this divide.

If change is on the horizon, present a positive side. Ask people to name a benefit that will come if there is a change and get people from different levels working together to encourage a sense of team work. Enlist the help of the enthusiastic and focus on the middle group with potential for change. For good leadership: show up, be present, tell the truth, and let go of the outcomes. You can't control what's going to happen so let it go. Ms. Lefebvre recommended books by Jack Montgomery and William Bridges on conflict management. For example, "Conflict management for libraries : strategies for a positive, productive workplace" was co-authored by Mr. Montgomery and others, and published by the American Library Association in April 2005. Ms. Lefebvre was the 2006 recipient of the APLA Merit Award (Editor: see the article below.)

APLA Merit Award

Madeleine Lefebvre was the 2006 recipient of the APLA Merit Award. This Award recognizes her commitment to the profession, her support to colleagues and her engagement with students of both the Dalhousie School of Information Management and the NSCC Library and Information Technology Program. Madeleine is the University Librarian at Saint Mary's University. Most recently she has served as President of the Canadian Library Association and is currently serving as a member of the National Advisory Committee for the IFLA World Library and Information Congress to be held in Quebec in 2008. She is currently conducting research to examine the experience of qualified librarian immigrants whose credentials are not recognized in their adopted county. She will be comparing policies and practices in Canada, the United States, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The findings will advocate for a smoother transitional process for these immigrant librarians. Another aspect of her contribution to Atlantic provinces librarianship is her support for her staff's participation in library association activities. She actively encourages this participation through professional development funds and release time not only because it makes for a better library community but also because it makes for better librarians.)

Nova Scotia Digital Collections Initiative

Eric Stackhouse, NSDCI Chair and Chief Librarian, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, was one of two presenters at the Pre-Conference Workshop for the Council of the Nova Scotia Archives Spring Conference 2006, held at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia on Wednesday May 24th. This workshop was aimed at the beginner level, covering basic software and hardware management and aligns with the NSDCI's commitment to promoting standards in digital projects. Eric's half-day presentation, Caring for Your Computer: Basics of Equipment Maintenance, provided an introduction to proper care and maintenance of computer hardware, recommended backup procedures, various storage media, web server technologies and equipment considerations when doing digital projects. It followed a morning session with Julie Morris, Records Analyst, NSARM on Organizing Your Hard Drive: Basics of Electronic File Management. Attendees were from a range of organizations, from special libraries to church archives.

Hackmatack Announces the Winners of the 2006 Award

The winners of the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award 2006 were announced at a ceremony on Friday, April 28 at the Capitol Theatre, Moncton , New Brunswick. Natale Ghent, the author of 'No Small Thing' was the winner in the English fiction category, Linda Bailey received the English nonfiction award for her book 'Adventures in the Ice Age' and the winner of the French category was Diane Carmel Léger for 'La butte à Pétard'.

"No Small Thing" is the touching story of Nathaniel and his two sisters and their struggle to keep a pony and heal their family. Natale Ghent is an award-winning author and journalist who shares a love for horses with her characters. She lives in Toronto, Ontario. "Adventures in the Ice Age" is an engaging mix of adventure and historical information about life in the last Ice Age, part of Good Times Travel Agency series with the Binkerton kids. Linda Bailey has written many popular books, including mysteries, information books and picture books for young readers. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

In "La butte à Pétard", the year is 1755, Acadian families are being deported from la butte à Pétard, now Saint-Joseph-de-Memramcook, in New Brunswick. Diane Carmel Léger is originally form New Brunswick but now lives and writes in Victoria, British Columbia. The Hackmatack Award ceremony was the culmination of this year's award week, during which seventeen of the nominated Canadian authors visited participating schools and libraries in New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and the Prince Edward Island. Over three hundred reading groups, and thousands of children from grades four to six, participated this year by reading the thirty nominated books.

To see the new nominated books for the 2006/2007 Hackmatack Award and more information about the award program, check out the website at www.hackmatack.ca.

The New Composite Learning Index (CLI)

Metro Council on Continuing Education hosted its 33rd Annual General Meeting on May 24, 2006 at the Westin Hotel in Halifax. After the AGM, Fernando Cartwright, Senior Researcher with the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) presented the results from the first Composite Learning Index (CLI), launched in early May. The CLI is an innovative tool developed by CCL to inform Canadians about the state of learning in Canada. The CLI reflects factors that contribute to learning - from youth through to adults in and out of the workplace – using 14 primary indicators related to learning. The indicators are combined to create a "score" that illustrates how well learning conditions support economic and social well-being across Canada and in specific communities. A moderated discussion followed. Later, after lunch, a Presentation on the first Nova Scotia Adult Learning Week to be held in April, was made. Plans for Adult Learning Week 2007 will soon be underway. For more information, go to http://www.mcce.ca/calendar.htm.

50+ Expo 2006

Overall, having a booth this year was a great success for the NS public libraries at Exhibition Park, and the majority of people who came to the booth were either already using their public library services, and wanted to learn more about them, or folks who weren't aware of all the useful services offered. So in both cases, it was very useful to have a strong presence, which dynamic volunteers from some of the regional public libraries provided. The table location and set up (with 2 tables, unexpectedly, instead of one) was excellent. The NS Public Libraries booth was in between the QEII booth and the Seniors Secretariat. The latter organization coordinates the program every year. Some of the HPL and SSRL materials, along with material from NSPL, had been used in other contexts, but these "Subject pathfinders" were very popular, especially those emphasizing wellness. Many thanks to all those who contributed materials and/or time to making this a successful project.

Shown with Heather MacKenzie, Halifax Pubic Libraries (third from left, standing) are four of the participants of the Red Hat Convention "Halifax Hoot" who came to the 50+ Expo. The weather was pretty bad on the weekend, but these ladies were determined to have fun! Also shown in front is the NS Public Libraries booth ballot basket.

One of the winning ballots at the 50+ Expo was drawn by retired librarian, Hope Bridgewater (left). Heather MacKenzie (right) was delighted to present Ms. Bridgewater with her gift bag - full of donated prizes courtesy of various public libraries and individuals.

Another pleased winner at the NS Public Libraries booth - this library patron (who came in with her daughter) mostly uses the Dartmouth North Public Library.

Ex Libris

The Ex Libris Association is spreading its activities to Nova Scotia this fall. It will participate in the joint Nova Scotia Library Association/Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (NSLA/LBANS) joint conference, September 29-October 1, 2006. Norman Horrocks, Professor Emeritus, School of Information Management, Dalhousie University, will talk about what the Ex Libris Association has to offer. In addtion, there will be an NSLA booth selling copies of its publications. Ex Libris t-shirts for children and adults will also be on sale.

Founded in Ontario twenty years ago, the Ex Libris Association now has a national membership stretching from Victoria to St John's. Its members are persons and institutions interested in the preservation of the history of libraries, archives and publishing in Canada. One of its current activities is to offer the W.Kaye Lamb Award for Service to Seniors to a library offering a strong programme of service to seniors through the Canadian Library Association. Western Counties Regional Library, Nova Scotia, was a co-winner of this Award in 2002. Under the direction of Dr Nancy Williamson, Emeritus Professor at the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto, Ex Libris is also building a biographical directory of Canadian librarians, archivists, trustees and publishers. It has already published a history of the early years of the Canadian Library Association written by Elizabeth Hulse, "The Morton Years, 1946-71"

which can be ordered online from the ELA web site for $7.00. Members will also receive a Newsletter twice a year containing articles and news on matters of historical interest. There is a membership form and more information on the ELA website at **http://exlibris.fis.utoronto.ca**.

LINKed

To celebrate Canada's birthday on July 1, 2006, this LINKed column features some great sites that are full of information on Canada's heritage.

Framing Canada: A Photographic memory/ Vision photographique du Canada: La mémoire d'une nation at http://www.collectionscanada.ca/framingcanada/ is a database of digitized photographic images from 1843 to the mid-20th century. At present there are 36,000digitized images on-line. There is a very large database of photographs (currently 400,000) with descriptions (but no images) in the Photographs section of the **ArchiviaNet: On-Line Research Tool** at **http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/020115_e.html**. Library and Archives Canada has over twenty-five million photographs illustrating Canadian life and is continuously adding to the contents of the Framing Canada digitization project and the ArchiviaNet database.

Canadian Directories: Who Was Where Annuaires canadiens: Qui habitait où at **http://www.collectionscanada.ca/canadiandirectories** has a digitized database of pre-1901 directories. This project is the result of a partnership between Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Institute of Historical Microreproductions. There are presently 95 directories in the database but the collection is growing. One can search all the directories at once or limit the search to a single directory by selecting it in the pop-up menu.

Canada's Historic Places: Lieux patrimoniaux du Canada at **http://www.historicplaces.ca** has a database of Canadian historic places. The development of this database is an ongoing collaboration of the federal government, provinces and territories. It can be searched by keyword or by province or territory. Each record has pictures of the historic place, a description of it, why it is of value and its character-defining elements. Currently there are records for over 3400 historic places in the database.

Canadian Pamphlets and Broadsides at **http://link.library.utoronto.ca/broadside** is a digitization project of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, that makes publications such as programs, campaign literature, catalogues, reports, and advertisements from the eighteenth century to pre-1930 accessible. These are an important source of historical information on such topics as agriculture and land settlement, politics and government, education, temperance, transportation, natural resources, and the arts. Currently there are 43182 page images with additions being made on a regular basis.

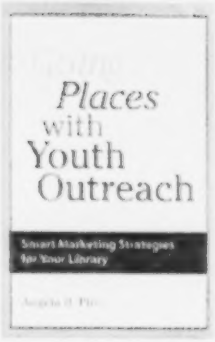
Canadian Studies: A Guide to the Sources by John D. Blackwell, Director, Research Grants Office, St. Francis Xavier University, & Laurie C.C. Stanley-Blackwell, Professor, Department of History, St. Francis Xavier University is at **http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/blackwell.html**. It has a bibliographic essay on the International Council for Canadian Studies web site that has relevant links to authoritative sources and which is followed by an extensive bibliography of works cited including books, series, journals, electronic products and Internet resources.

Web sites which were featured in previous "Linked" columns are arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at **http://www.library.ns.ca/services/reference/index.htm**. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at **morrisc@gov.ns.ca.**

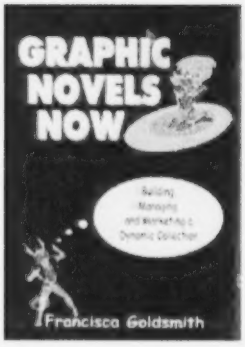
PROFESSIONAL COLUMN

In this issue of the Disseminator, two recent additions to the Professional Collection are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please send requests via email to **inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca**

Pfeil, Angela B. ***Going places with youth outreach : smart marketing strategies for your library.*** Chicago : American Library Association, 2005. Call number: 021 .2 PFE



This book provides practical information on how to market library programs to children by taking them outside of the library and bringing them to new audiences. This outreach strategy will create new interest in what is going on inside the library. The book provides guidelines for preparing a complete marketing plan and contains sample logos, brochures and mascots that have been used in successful youth marketing programs.



Goldsmith, Francisca. ***Graphic novels now : building, managing, and marketing a dynamic collection***. Chicago : American Library Association, 2005. Call number: 025 .27 GOL

The graphic novel genre appeals to the visually-oriented Gen-x and Gen-Y as well as to reluctant readers and it is growing in popularity. This book helps librarians develop a collection of graphic novels as well as dealing with issues such as shelving, cataloguing and preserving them, marketing and promoting them and developing programs around them. The appendix includes sources of further information, selected graphic novels by category and sample collection development policies.

Thanks go to the following contributors:
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